

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 13-28 and 30-31 are now present in the case. Claims 1-12 and 29 have been canceled by this Amendment to expedite prosecution, and claims 32-33 were previously canceled. Claims 25, 26 and 30 have been amended. This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance and reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following comments.

Claims 13-24 stand allowed as indicated in the Examiner's Answer filed March 22, 2006, and should remain allowed. Claims 25-28 and 30-31 stand rejected over cited art. In particular, claims 25-28 and 30-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Conner et al. (US Patent No. 6,450,704) in view of "cited prior art of Applicant (Figure 1)". Claim 28 is indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Applicants believe that claims 25-28, 30 and 31 patentably distinguish over O'Conner in view of the cited prior art of Applicants, and respectfully request reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following comments.

In rejecting claim 25, the Examiner states:

Regarding claim 25, O'Conner '704 teaches a structure that is divisible/separable (has a plurality of different components attached together, see Fig. 1), and the devices are positioned there between the first 11 and second 29 substrates. The two parts of Fig. 1 are two different optical communication devices.

Examiner's Answer filed March 22, 2006, page 5.

In addition, the Examiner states:

...O'Conner et al clearly shows an optical device that can be (at least initially "divisible") in separate parts as is shown in Figure 1. Each part has electrical optical components, either the optical cable 54, or the optical device 18.

Examiner's Answer filed March 22, 2006, page 8.

Claim 25 as amended herein is as follows:

25. A structure divisible into two or more optical communications devices, each of said two or more optical communications devices having at least one optical electrical device, and each optical communications device adapted to join with a connector of an optical cable, the structure comprising:
a first substrate divisible into at least two portions and having at least two optical electrical devices thereon;

a second substrate divisible into at least two portions and affixed to the first substrate with the at least two optical electrical devices positioned therebetween, the second substrate having at least two optical components thereon; and
at least two alignment members formed on the second substrate, each alignment member adapted to interface with the connector to align the connector in relation to the second substrate, at least one of the at least two alignment members being formed on each portion of said second substrate.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither O'Conner nor Applicants' cited prior art discloses or suggests "a second substrate divisible into at least two portions and affixed to the first substrate with the at least two optical electrical devices positioned therebetween, the second substrate having at least two optical components thereon" and "at least two alignment members formed on the second substrate, each alignment member adapted to interface with the connector to align the connector in relation to the second substrate, at least one of the at least two alignment members being formed on each portion of said second substrate" as recited in amended claim 25.

The Examiner construes pin holder 29 in O'Conner as corresponding to the second substrate recited in claim 1, and suggests that it is, at least initially, divisible. Even assuming that the Examiner is correct, however, there is nothing in O'Conner to suggest that pin holder 29 is divisible into two portions in such a manner that "at least one of the at least two alignment members" are "formed on each portion of said second substrate" as recited in claim 25.

As described in the present application, forming the first and second substrates such that they are divisible into at least two portions with one or more alignment members formed on each portion of the second substrate facilitates the assembly of multiple enclosures simultaneously in a batch processing operation. Neither O'Conner nor Applicants' cited prior art discloses or suggests the subject matter of claim 25 nor provides any motivation for designing the structure in the manner recited in claim 25. Only the present disclosure provides any such motivation.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 25 as amended is not obvious over O'Conner in view of the cited art of Applicants and should be allowable in its present form.

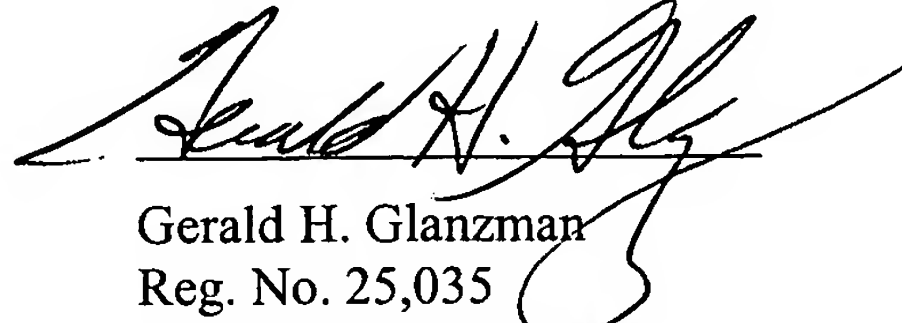
Claims 26-28 and 30-31 depend from and further restrict claim 25, and should also be allowable in their present form, at least by virtue of their dependency.

For at least all the above reasons, this application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the Examiner so find and issue a Notice of Allowance in due course.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number if, in the opinion of the Examiner, such a telephone call could be helpful in expediting prosecution of the case.

DATE: May 22, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald H. Glanzman", written over a horizontal line.

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